

**TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 23, 2008**

**Meeting Place:** Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48<sup>th</sup> Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**Present:** Chairman Don Bohn, Supervisors Arne Nystrom, Jeanne Fehrman, Edward Hellner and Bill Clendenning, Treasurer Kristine Ginter, Clerk Judy McLellan.

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

NOTE: ( \* ) indicates agenda item of when Board member joined the meeting.

*Notices of the meeting were legally posted at The Store in Kellner, the Grand Rapids Garage and the Grand Rapids Municipal Building, and published in the Daily Tribune.*

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Don Bohn.

1. **Approve minutes of September 10th and 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 Town Board Meeting.** Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.
2. **Approval/Denial of Resolution 2008-29 to approve the Addendum of Contract for the re-joining of the City of Nekoosa to the Municipal Airport Commission.** Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to approve Resolution 2008-29 as presented. Motion carried.
3. **Approval/Denial of Chief Lewandowski and Clerk Judy McLellan attending “A Supervisor’s Toolbox” seminar in Kimberly, November 12, 2008.** Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) to approve training as requested. Motion carried
4. **Approval/Denial of Chief Lewandowski and Chief Bernette attending Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center training in Madison October 27, 2008.** Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to approve training as requested. Motion carried.
5. **Approval/Denial of the Town granting the request of the Town of Grant to open the current Fire Protection Contract.** Supervisor Nystrom stated that the Public Safety Committee met with Grant Chairperson Sharon Schwab on September 17, 2008. She had asked to re-open the current contract to adjust the cost to the Town of Grant. Supervisor Nystrom stated that when the contract was negotiated the cost per the Cost Audit Study was to be approximately \$65,000 per year. It was agreed, in order to help the Town of Grant at that time, that the first year would be low, second year more on target and the third year would be higher to make up for the first year. The Public Safety Committee recommended to the board that they not open the contract. Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) move to deny the request of Town of Grant Chairperson Sharon Schwab to re-open current Fire Protection contract. Motion carried
6. **Approval/Denial of Resolution 2008-30 to approve the signing of a contract with Higgins Ambulance/subsequent owners United Emergency Medical Response L.L.C. to begin on January 1, 2010.** Chairman Bohn stated that due to the possible purchase of Higgins Ambulance by Gary Johnson and Tyler Johnson they were asking to renew the contract earlier than usual. Terms of the contract were presented to the Ambulance Board Members at the September 11, 2008 meeting. The Ambulance Board Members agreed to the terms with a motion made and carried to take the contract back to all the municipalities’ full boards for final approval. Resolution 2008-30 gives the Town of Grand Rapids’ full board approval. Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to approve Resolution 2008-30 as presented. Motion carried.
7. **Discussion on revision of Snow & Ice Control policy to allow for the placing of breakaway markers along the roadways.** Clerk McLellan had presented the board with possible changes to the Snow & Ice Control policy to include the allowance of breakaway markers along the roadway. Supervisor Fehrman had made some inquiries at local businesses as to the price of these types of markers. The lowest cost was approximately \$2.00 plus tax. Chairman Bohn presented information from a website in which the markers could be purchased for approximately \$1.33 not including shipping costs. Guidelines as to when the markers could be placed in the right-of-way, placement of the markers

and removal of the markers were discussed. Motion (Hellner/Clendenning) to approve the revisions to the Snow & Ice Control policy with the question marks left in as to the dates that the markers could be placed in the right-a-way and when they must be removed. The paragraphs that were suggested for removal from the policy will remain in with the information being updated to current equipment used. Be it further moved to approve the purchase of approximately 1000 breakaway markers from 3T Products for the sale to town residents, with price charged not to exceed \$2.00 per marker. A copy of the guidelines as listed in the Snow & Ice Control policy shall be given to each resident when purchasing the markers. Motion carried

8. **Approval/Denial of Operators License Applications.** Motion (Hellner/Clendenning) to approve the applications for a one year Operator's License for James Larson, Grand Rapids Lions and Sandra Matthews, Bud's Corner Mart. Motion carried.

9. **Reports from the Feasibility Study Committees.**

- Fire Services- Supervisor Nystrom said that the committee members met and discussed how the departments were alike as well as the differences. They agreed that the departments would begin to work together at no additional costs to either municipality on items such as training sessions. This will give the departments a chance to determine what may be possibilities in the future and what opportunities may exist as cost savings for both municipalities. Supervisor Fehrman asked if this was an area in which the municipalities may want to get Ruekert Mielke involved to give suggestions and advice. She mentioned items such as liability and insurance questions. Supervisor Nystrom stated that the committees felt that the departments needed more time to work together to see how they operated as a group before involving Ruekert Mielke. The towns are covered under the mutual aid agreements for items such as mentioned by Supervisor Fehrman.
- Public Works—Supervisor Hellner stated that the committee met and discussed items such as staffing, equipment and the different needs of the municipalities. There are many differences in the workings of the Public Works departments. Biron does their own garbage collection with recycling contracted out to Veolia. Grand Rapids contracts out both to Veolia. Grand Rapids usually has overtime costs when plowing the town's roads and Biron has man power and equipment that is not always utilized for plowing. Biron has a need for the type of mowers that the Town has and Grand Rapids occasionally has a use for the equipment that Biron uses for sewer cleaning. The committee felt that at this point it would need to be studied further to determine if any "bartering" of services would be cost beneficial to both municipalities.
- Police Services and Municipal Court—Supervisor Fehrman stated that the Police Services committees met twice to discuss the police department and municipal court. Biron is very interested in using the Town's Municipal Court. There were parts of the police department activities that they may be interested in but currently the Village would not be in a position to pay the added costs for the police department's services. The committee feels that there may be a need to address how to "barter" services between the municipalities that could result in better services without additional costs to the taxpayers.

10. **Update from Recycling & Garbage Committee.** R & G Committee Chairman Supervisor Clendenning stated that the committee had met with Mr. Dale Marth, Sales and Marketing Manager for Veolia last Friday. During the meeting Mr. Marth presented a proposal for a contract with Veolia. Supervisor Clendenning said that the contract looked favorable but still would like some time to look into items of concern such as the use of clear bags, use of recycling bins and how the count of pickups is determined. The R & G Committee will continue to look into these items and report back to the board.
11. **The Grand Rapids Town Board will move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1) (c) "considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility," and Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (e) "deliberating or negotiating whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require closed session," to discuss pending contract negotiations and strategy regarding**

**the Town of Grand Rapids Public Works/Clerical and Building Inspector employees.** Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to move into closed session. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried. In closed session 7:20 p.m.

Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to move into open session. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried. In open session 8:00 p.m.

Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes subject to board approval.

Respectfully submitted and approved  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

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Judy McLellan  
Town Clerk